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Dear Mr. Van W.,

You ask How Morris Brownlee became David Ferrie's godson and whether or not there was any connection between Ferrie and Dr. Alton Ochsner.

About 22 years ago I could probably have given you clear answers but today I'm sorry I cannot. I just don't remember and I'm not clear on what I published in Oswald in New Orleans, today out of print. (I enclose a list of the other books in the event you have any interest.)

I did interview Brownlee 22 years ago and with his permission I taped the interview, but I did not transcribe it and today I don't recall where the tapes are.

My today's impression is that it was Morris' father and Ferrie who were friends, and that this is what led to Ferrie's being Morris' godfather.

I do think I heard some rumors about Ferrie having some connection with Ochsner but that it was just loose talk. I do not think that Ochsner would have had any association with Ferrie.

It is more likely that Ferrie had some relationships with Ochsner hospital employees. Far-right and anti-Castro Cubans were employed there.

I've had no occasion to think of Brownlee for years. Or his friend I also interviewed at the same time. John George Wyatt - who also used other names. My impression is that there were not good people and not dependable at all.

Both seemed to share Ferrie's extreme political views.

But I came to realize that although they knew Ferrie and were strange and unlovely types they had nothing to do with the JFK assassination and that is why they've been out of my mind for so long.

I did get the FBI's New Orleans records and if there was any mention of either in them it was so insignificant I had no reason to remember it.

Although there did seem to be possible relevance long ago, I think that today any time spent on them is wasted because it can yield nothing that is relevant.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg